

## REMARKS

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) accompanies this Amendment.

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application as amended herein. This Amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed May 01, 2007.

Claims 92-112, 115-119 and 161-168 are pending. Claims 92-112, 115-119 and 161-168 have been rejected.

Claims 92, 100, 108, and 161 have been amended. It is submitted that no new matter has been added.

Applicants reserve all rights with respect to the applicability of the doctrine of equivalents.

The Examiner has rejected claims 92-94, 98-102, 108-112, 115, 119 and 161-163 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang, et al. (USPN 6,118,864, "Chang") in view of Guy, et al. (USPN 5,940,479, "Guy"), Binkerd, et al. (USPN 4,623,760, "Binkerd") and Meubus, et al. (USPN 5,793,858, "Meubus").

Independent claim 92, as amended, reads as follows.

A method, comprising:

- a) generating a ring signal at a remote telephone interface and starting a configurable timer of a voice over packet data network switched call control system that measures a configurable time period over which said ring signal is applied at said remote telephone interface, said generating a ring signal and said starting a configurable timer both a consequence of a connection that was established toward said remote telephone interface over a packet data network in order to place a call from a telephone interface having an off-hook condition through said remote telephone interface;
- b) ceasing said ring signal and sending a control message in response to said configurable timer expiring, said sending a control message further

comprising sending said control message over said packet data network to a system that initiated said connection, said system having initiated said connection in response to a ring signal observed at the telephone interface maintained by said system; and

c) changing the off-hook condition to an on-hook condition at said telephone interface maintained by said system as a consequence of said system having received said control message over the packet data network in order to prevent the telephone interface having no-disconnect supervision from remaining in the off-hook condition upon expiration of the configurable time period.

Chang discloses at least one communication platform is networked to a switched backbone, such as the network commonly referred to as the Internet, and is configured to communicate with and manage at least one network interface, such as a private branch exchange (PBX), and a voice communication module so as to provide telecommunication services that includes voice-over-IP communication between or among communication platform users and call-holding, transferring, forwarding, conferencing, and the like (PBX-like features). (Chang, Abstract). Chang discloses at step 150 of Figure 5B that the remote communication platform informs the local communication platform of the ring-no-answer or busy status. The local communication platform responds by performing step 78 in the section, "Placing a Voice Call" above. This results in the local communication platform playing a voice prompt which indicates to the caller that the attempted voice-over-IP call to the call recipient returned with an RNA/busy status. (Chang, col. 16, lines 28-35).

The Office Action states that Chang in view of Guy and Binkerd do not disclose a timer for a ring-no-answer that last a particular duration. (Office Action, 05/01/07, page 5). Applicants agree that Chang in view of Guy and Binkerd do not disclose a timer for a ring-no-answer that lasts a particular duration. Chang, Guy and Binkerd also do not

disclose or teach the limitations “generating a ring signal at a remote telephone interface and starting a configurable timer of a voice over packet data network switched call control system that measures a configurable time period over which said ring signal is applied at said remote telephone interface ...” and “changing the off-hook condition to an on-hook condition at said telephone interface maintained by said system as a consequence of said system having received said control message over the packet data network in order to prevent the telephone interface having no-disconnect supervision from remaining in the off-hook condition upon expiration of the configurable time period” as recited in amended claim 92.

Therefore, Chang, Guy and Binkerd do not disclose or suggest the limitations stated in amended claim 92.

Adding the teachings of Meubus to Chang, Guy, and Binkerd fails to cure the deficiencies of Chang, Guy, and Binkerd. Meubus discloses a method of in-session activation that gives Telcos the ability to offer callers a menu of call completion services when the call encounters a busy or no-answer condition. (Meubus, Abstract). Meubus discloses a ringing-no-answer (RNA) line status with the telephone call is first examined to see if it is a toll or local call 30. If the telephone call is a toll call the proper announcement identified by a "menu identification" (MENUID) in a data table is retrieved 31, and similarly for a local call 32. If the appropriate MENUID is for any reason not found, then the procedure ends. Otherwise, an RNA timer is started 33, which timing is specified in seconds by the Telco, and is preferably between 12 to 72 seconds. If the called party (DN) answers 34 before the timer expires 35, ISA is aborted and the connection is established as usual between the two parties. Otherwise, ISA

offer of service (i.e. an ISA announcement) is started 36. (Meubus, col. 4, line 57 to col. 5, line 2). In the RNA scenario, as soon as the caller enters a valid digit during the first-level announcement, the called party is disconnected. The called party can answer the call at any point before that, which aborts ISA and the call is connected as usual. Thus, Meubus discloses starting ISA service upon expiration of a RNA timer associated with a telephone system having voice traffic.

By contrast, Meubus does not disclose a voice over packet data network. Meubus does not disclose the limitation “starting a configurable timer of a voice over packet data network switched call control system” as recited in claim 92. Furthermore, Meubus does not disclose the limitations “generating a ring signal at a remote telephone interface and starting a configurable timer of a voice over packet data network switched call control system that measures a configurable time period over which said ring signal is applied at said remote telephone interface ...” and “changing the off-hook condition to an on-hook condition at said telephone interface maintained by said system as a consequence of said system having received said control message over the packet data network in order to prevent the telephone interface having no-disconnect supervision from remaining in the off-hook condition upon expiration of the configurable time period” as recited in amended claim 92.

Therefore, Meubus does not disclose or suggest the limitations stated in amended claim 92.

It is respectfully submitted that Chang does not suggest a combination with Guy, and Guy does not suggest a combination with Chang. It would be impermissible hindsight to combine Chang with Guy based on applicants' own disclosure.

It is respectfully submitted that Chang does not suggest a combination with Binkerd and Binkerd does not suggest a combination with Chang. It would be impermissible hindsight to combine Chang with Binkerd based on applicants' own disclosure.

It is respectfully submitted that Chang does not suggest a combination with Meubus, and Meubus does not suggest a combination with Chang because Chang teaches away from such a combination. Chang discloses a system and method for providing communication on a wide area network while Meubus discloses a method for improving call completion rates in a telephone system. It would be impermissible hindsight to combine Chang with Meubus based on applicants' own disclosure.

Furthermore, even if Chang, Guy, Binkerd and Meubus were combined, such a combination would lack the limitation "starting a configurable timer of a voice over packet data network switched call control system." Also, if Chang, Guy, Binkerd and Meubus were combined, such a combination would also lack the limitations "generating a ring signal at a remote telephone interface and starting a configurable timer of a voice over packet data network switched call control system that measures a configurable time period over which said ring signal is applied at said remote telephone interface ..." and "changing the off-hook condition to an on-hook condition at said telephone interface maintained by said system as a consequence of said system having received said control message over the packet data network in order to prevent the telephone interface having no-disconnect supervision from remaining in the off-hook condition upon expiration of the configurable time period" as recited in amended claim 92.

Therefore, in view of the above distinction, neither Chang, Guy, Binkerd nor Meubus, individually or in combination, disclose each and every limitation of amended claim 92. As such, amended claim 92 is not rendered obvious by Chang in view of Guy, Binkerd and Meubus under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Independent claims 100, 108, and 161, as amended, contain similar limitations but not identical compared to the limitations of amended claim 92. For similar reasons, independent claims 100, 108, and 161 are not rendered obvious by Chang in view of Guy, Binkerd and Meubus under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

It is submitted that claims 93, 94, 98, 99, 101, 102, 109-112, 115, 119, 162, and 163 are not rendered obvious by Chang in view of Guy, Binkerd and Meubus under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) given that claims 93, 94, 98, 99, 101, 102, 109-112, 115, 119, 162, and 163 depend from and include the limitations of one of the corresponding independent claims 92, 100, 108, and 161.

The Examiner has rejected claims 95-97, 103-105, 116-118 and 164-166 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang in view of Guy, Binkerd and Meubus and further in view of English, et al. (USPN 5,305,308, "English").

Claims 95-97, 103-105, 116-118 and 164-166 depend from and include the limitations of one of the corresponding independent claims 92, 100, 108, and 161 noted above. It is submitted that English fails to cure the deficiencies of Chang in view of Guy, Binkerd and Meubus noted above with respect to claims 92, 100, 108, and 161 and, therefore, claims 95-97, 103-105, 116-118 and 164-166 are patentable over the combination of cited references.

The Examiner has rejected claims 106-107 and 167-168 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang in view of Guy, Binkerd and Meubus and further in view of Fuentes (USPN 5,812,541) or Lowry, et al. (USPN 5,970,066, "Lowry"). Claims 106-107 and 167-168 depend from and include the limitations of one of the corresponding independent claims 100 and 161 noted above. It is submitted that Fuentes and Lowry fail to cure the deficiencies of Chang in view of Guy, Binkerd and Meubus noted above with respect to claims 100 and 161 and, therefore, claims 106-107 and 167-168 are patentable over the combination of cited references.

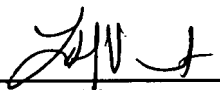
In conclusion, applicants respectfully submit that in view of the arguments as set forth herein, the applicable rejections and objections have been overcome.

If there are any additional charges, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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Lester J. Vincent  
Reg. No. 31,460

1279 Oakmead Parkway  
Sunnyvale, CA 94085  
(408) 720-8300